

REMARKS

In the August 1, 2006 Office Action, claims 16-20, 23-31 and 33 were rejected, and claim 22 was deemed objectionable. This Response amends claims 16 and 33, and cancels claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 16-20, 23-31, and 33 (15 total claims; 2 independent claims; no additional claim fees due) remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 16-18, 20, 23-26, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Krumweide, USPN 4,239,564; claims 16-18, 20, 23-26, 29-31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krumweide in view of Bennett, USPN 3,753,848; claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krumweide in view of Bennett and further in view of Sperber, USPN 6,584,749; and claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krumweide. These rejections are moot in view of the amended set of claims.

The Office Action stated that claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, independent claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22 (no intervening claims are present) and, therefore, amended claim 16 is now allowable. Likewise, independent claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22 and, therefore, Applicant submits that amended claim 33 is also allowable. In addition, claims 17-20 and 23-31, which variously depend from claim 16, are also allowable.

In conclusion, for the reasons given above, all claims now presently in the application are believed allowable and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at (480) 385-5060.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: September 28, 2006

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